

LOCAL LEGISLATION

How News is Gathered at the District Building.

STAR'S QUICK SERVICE

REMARKABLE CHANGES IN THE LAST HALF CENTURY.

Telegraph, Telephone, Typewriter and Speedy Reporters Combine to All the News.

By Charles E. Kern.

The Evening Star of December 18, 1852, did not contain a single line of news concerning the proceedings of Congress of that day, although both the Senate and the House of Representatives were in session. This does not indicate that the Star of that date lacked enterprise. The fact is simply typical of the afternoon newspaper of fifty years ago, and to a large degree of every newspaper of that time. But for the afternoon paper especially the difficulty of securing the news on the day of its publication was extremely difficult.

After half a century the first edition of The Evening Star, sold on the streets of this city by hundreds of newsboys as early as 3:40 o'clock, will be found to contain a very complete record of every important happening in Congress up to 3 o'clock and

of newspaper progress shows how that has been accomplished.

In 1852 people who wished to be informed upon the news of Congress of necessity depended to a large extent upon the Globe, with which Congress had a contract for publishing a report of the proceedings of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Globe was published whenever there was in hand sufficient copy to make eight pages of the paper. Its issuance was consequently at irregular periods. Today the newspaper reports of congressional proceedings are so complete that few men in Congress, or men who carefully watch the proceedings of the Senate and House, find it necessary to consult the official publication contained in the Record.

Congressional News Before the War.

The accommodations for press correspondents made by Congress when the present legislative halls were first occupied showed the esteem in which the news service was held, and was almost as great as is required today. But there was a lack of all other facilities which are now so common for the prompt transmission of news. The work now done by means of the telegraph and the telephone was then performed by the slow-going mails. This operated against every newspaper in the country, and even within sight of the Capitol the conditions were such as to make it impossible to publish information of events on the days they occurred. The Capitol was separated from the Star office, for a day or two located at the corner of 8th and D streets and then for a few years on the south side of D street just west of 12th street north-west, by about a mile of muddy roadway, and even had a mounted messenger service been provided it would still have been impossible to prepare the paper for publication with the meager facilities that characterized the printing office of that day, and it would have been still more im-

possible to promptly deliver the edition had the size of the population warranted such a service. But there was no haste to read the news. The newspapers the people were accustomed to contained dignified statements of what had taken place, with dates as far removed from the time of publication as it took the mails to cover the intervening distance.

Rapid Transit of News.

The methods of transmitting the proceedings of Congress to the Star office in vogue today render the service as prompt as if the introduction of every bill that might appeal to their interest. In every stage of its progress they have been informed of action on it by subcommittees, committees and by the Senate and House of Representatives, with side lights on developments that might affect it, or upon the intentions of those who have had it in charge, in advance of action.

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Associated Press Facilities.

The special facilities of The Star for securing the news of Congress go side by side with the excellent system of the Associated Press. The special wire of the Associated

Press runs through the Capitol building, and the news of Congress is transmitted to the Star office by means of the special wire of the Associated Press.

THE CITY PARK PLANS

Address Before American Institute of Architects.

DESIGNS EXPLAINED

MR. CHARLES MOORE'S PAPER ON THE COMMISSION'S WORK.

Development of the Mall, the Union Station Project and Other Local Improvements.

Mr. Charles Moore, a member of the District park commission, and clerk to the Senate committee on the District of Columbia, read a paper Thursday before the American Institute of Architects which re-

lated solely to the plans under way for the improvement of the national capital. Mr. Moore said:

A little less than a year ago one of the most brilliant and most successful members of the American Institute of Architects came to Washington to see the models and drawings prepared under the direction of the park commission. He was on his way to Italy for a brief rest, and also for study that would be helpful in his profession. At the time of his visit the exhibition was being made ready at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, but during the time he was in the city he gave a fair idea of the lines along which the commission had worked. Six months later this same architect, being again in the city, said: "That busy and incomplete view I obtained of the work of the park commission made a radical difference in my visit to Europe. I had never before appreciated the relations between landscape and architecture. The park plans enable me to see Italy and Paris with new eyes, and thereby added vastly to my enjoyment and benefit."

This instance is not exceptional. The park plans came at a time when architects all over the land were beginning to feel that it was their duty, and that it might also become their privilege, to consider not alone the individual client, but also the people as a body; and especially that public buildings should be so placed as to enhance the unity, the dignity and the beauty of the city. Years of abundance have piled up capital and interest is low; and it is now both possible and profitable to build not alone for the present generation, but also for posterity. The only element now needed to accomplish in the United States results surpassingly great is a keen but friendly rivalry among cities to surpass one another in civic beauty and dignity, as well as in commerce and manufactures. Having secured the power to live, it now remains to cultivate the joy of living. This is to be attained by making beauty a part of the every day life of all the citizens. To this end no one should contribute more than the public parks. The park plans, then, are not only a beautiful thing to the eye, but also a practical thing to the mind and the body. Unless the Washington park plans show the way to the study and practice of civic beauty throughout the United States they will fail of their highest results. In this work the

accommodation of any new road which may secure hereafter the right to construct lines into the District; and the national character of the structures will be recognized both by the monumental character of the building itself and its location in relation to the Capitol, and also by certain arrangements within the structure whereby the President and guests of state will have separate and suitable accommodations when entering or leaving the city of Washington.

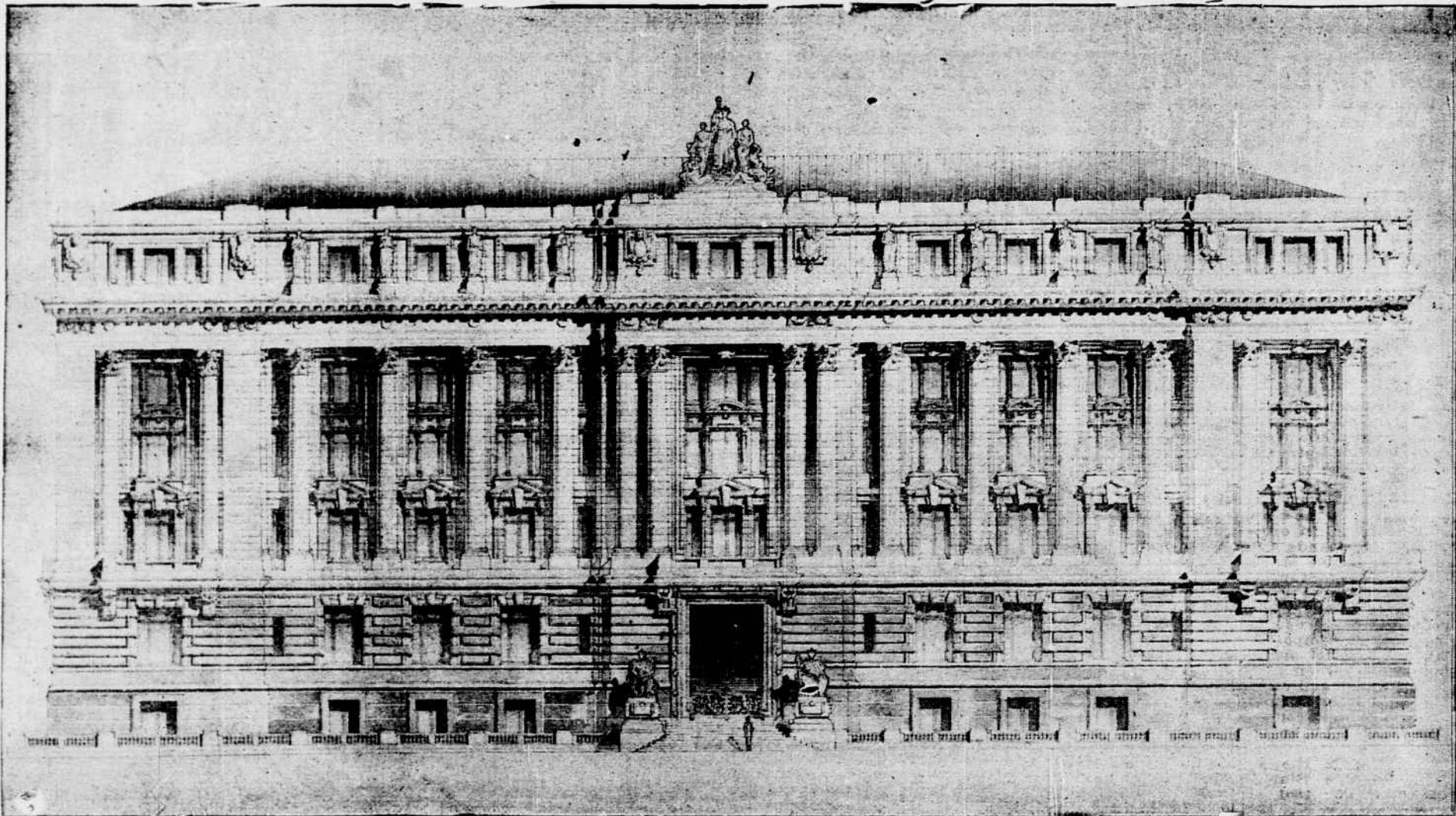
A bill to carry out these ideal arrangements having passed the Senate and having come to the House, the park commission, in its report to the House, has recommended that the committee on the District of Columbia of that body, the successful outcome of this project before the 4th of March may be anticipated with confidence.

The main axis of the great composition designed by the park commission is the completion of the L'Enfant plan for its center the integrity of the composition that the western limit of the axis shall be marked by an object worthy to stand with the two great structures mentioned. This end once accomplished, the result must be a composition the greatest in extent known to the modern world. After mature consideration and after consultation with those in position to give advice on such a subject the commission recommended that the main axis be terminated with a suitable memorial to the one man in our national history who by common consent shares pre-eminence with George Washington—Abraham Lincoln.

Meets With Hearty Response.

This suggestion met a prompt response on the part of Congress. A Lincoln memorial commission was created and \$25,000 appropriated to provide for plans. The consultations already held give promise that the type of memorial proposed (a great portico in the Doric or the Corinthian order) and the location suggested by the park commission will be recommended to Congress. These views shall be accepted, then the ultimate development of the space from the monument westward to the Potomac—an area of 100 acres—must be worked out according to the plans of the commission.

On the west front of the Capitol grounds the commission has laid out Union Square,



The Accepted Design of the New Municipal Building.

a brief mention of any event of special interest up to twenty minutes of its issuance from the press.

The progress in the methods of handling the news from the Capitol is but characteristic of the progress which has been made in the handling of the news from every part of the world which makes it possible for the readers of The Star to be informed every evening of the happenings of the day everywhere. This progress has been a triumph for mechanical invention, for without the thousands of appliances for the rapid transmission of news, and for its prompt publication, the greatest enterprise on the part of newspaper managers and newsgatherers would have been barren of results. The manner in which the news of Congress is handled for publication in The Star shows that every step of progress in mechanical invention has been promptly utilized.

Growth of Afternoon Newspapers.

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possible to promptly deliver the edition had the size of the population warranted such a service. But there was no haste to read the news. The newspapers the people were accustomed to contained dignified statements of what had taken place, with dates as far removed from the time of publication as it took the mails to cover the intervening distance.

Reporting District Legislation.

Today the facilities provided for promptly placing every happening at the Capitol before the subscribers of The Star form the most complete system that it has been possible to devise, both in its personnel and in the mechanical facilities necessary for conducting the work. The gathering of news at the Capitol is specialized to a large extent. Local legislation has always been recognized as of the greatest importance to the readers of The Star, and while all general matters receive attention, no event is so great as to cause any neglect of ques-

the Capitol could walk down Pennsylvania avenue and tell the story of the day to his friends it is related in the columns of The Star and being hurried to all parts of the city.

Some years ago, when the telephone was young and its possibilities only beginning to develop, a reporter of a paper in this city, upon seeing the editor obliged to leave his desk and go to a telephone that was used by every one in the building, remarked that it would be desirable to have an "exchange" established so that the editorial and reporter rooms, the business office and other portions of the establishment might each be served with a private phone without the necessity of any one leaving the room in which he was working. The suggestion was laughed at as visionary. To have a telephone in the building was regarded as such a great advance over the former condition that to talk of having one in each room seemed absurd.

Today the reporter's office at Capitol, by means of The Star's private telephone system, has constantly a means of communication with every editor of the paper without the necessity of calling any one from his desk. The private telephone lines connecting various news bureaus of The Star in this city also permit a quick communication between reporters widely separated, which often proves of great news value. The telephone not only facilitates the handling of late news, but is in the truest sense a labor-saving machine. The column article that would require an hour of labor to write is disposed of in twenty minutes without fatigue and so gives the reporter an opportunity to devote his thought to other matters.

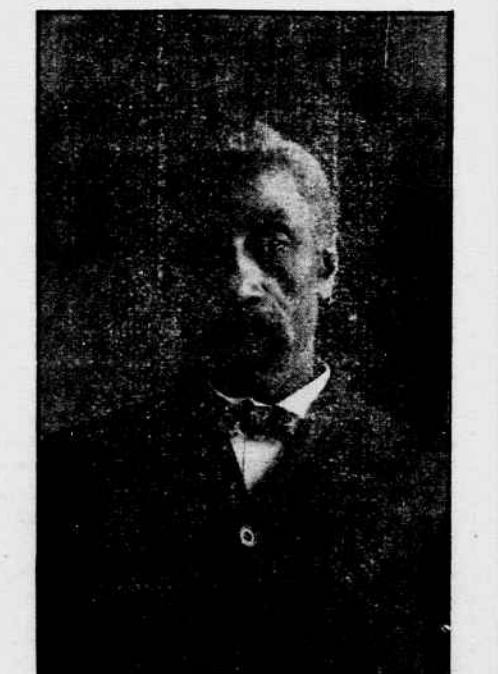
Within the past two years Congress has extended the telephone service at the Capitol so that practically every committee room in the building can be connected with the private telephone system of The Star at a member's notice. When committees are sitting behind closed doors, or when an executive session of the Senate makes it impossible for a reporter to reach some of the committee rooms, the telephone establishes communication in a way that nothing else could do.

Reporting the Schley Court.

A notable example of the manner in which the telephone permits the prompt handling of news was given at the time the Schley court of inquiry was sitting at the navy

When it is considered that before the hour The Star goes to press nearly all the important news of the day occurs, and when its admirable system for its collection and transmission are considered, it is but natural that it should be the most popular newspaper of this city. There seems at this time but little to be hoped for in the form of improvement in this excellent service, but it is probable that in the years to come there will be still greater facilities for the rapid transmission and publication of the news, which cannot now be foreseen.

George Johnson, An employee of The Star since W. D. Wallace first owned the paper.



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AQUEDUCT BRIDGE AND CANAL.

the handling of late news are probably unequalled by any newspaper of the country, yet to a large extent this progress characterizes the change that has taken place in the publication of afternoon newspapers everywhere and accounts for the increasing number of such newspapers, crowded with morning publications, as shown by a bulletin recently issued by the director of the twelfth census. The growth of afternoon papers has been most pronounced during the last twenty-five years, as it has been during that period that the greatest progress has been made in the prompt handling of the news. In 1900 in twenty-six of the largest cities of the United States there were 382 daily newspapers. Of that number 175 were published in the evening and 157 in the morning. As late as 1890 of the 500 daily papers published in these 26 cities 163 were issued in the morning and but 146 in the evening. The change that has taken place since 1890 is still greater. In that year there were published 217 daily papers, of which number but 93 were issued in the evening. In 1900 of 58 daily newspapers of New York city 29 were published in the morning and 29 in the evening; in Chicago of 87 papers but 19 were issued in the morning and 21 in the evening, while Philadelphia with 21 daily papers had 11 published in the evening. The constantly growing popularity of the afternoon paper can readily be understood. It gives to the public, on the day of its happening, the news that to a newspaper published in the morning paper issued twelve hours later. The story

tions that affect the interests of the District of Columbia.

In the Senate and in the House of Representatives special reporters are delegated to keep in close touch with every happening, each with a general line of work for which he is held responsible, although each is at all times alive to the "news," whatever its nature. The work of this corps of special reporters is done in conjunction with the news service provided by the Associated Press, which covers matters of general interest and which is the result of the combined effort of a large and efficient corps of newspaper men, all acting in harmony with special reporters and for the purpose of presenting to the readers of The Star a complete word picture of every event of importance that takes place not only during the sessions of Congress, but also in the sixty-four committees of the Senate and the sixty-four committees of the House of Representatives, besides the innumerable conferences that are constantly going on in relation to matters of legislation. In fifty years the numbers of these committees have been doubled, and their work has multiplied many fold. The increase in the legislative work has been still greater. The Thirtieth Congress enacted 405 general acts, 84 pension bills and 63 resolutions. In the first session alone of the present Congress 1,484 laws were enacted. In the House of Representatives there were introduced, and to some extent at least considered, 15,000 bills, and almost as many more came before the Senate. This mass of legislation has been followed by representatives of The Star

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STATE, WAR AND NAVY BUILDING AND CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART.

American Institute of Architects, which was so potent a factor in originating the park commission, has a duty to perform that is too obvious to need argument.

Placed on Exhibition.

The models, pictures, maps and plans illustrating the work of the District of Columbia park commission were exhibited at the Corcoran Gallery of Art for six weeks, beginning on January 15, 1902, and on the same day the preliminary reports of the Senate committee on the District of Columbia and of the park commission were submitted to Congress by Senator McMillan. President Roosevelt and the members of his cabinet were present at the opening of the exhibition; and as opportunity has offered the members of the administration have given to the commission and to the plans hearty, intelligent, effective aid and support.

It was never for a moment the purpose of Senator McMillan to seek the formal approval of Congress for plans which had required to produce the experience and training of years and the intense and absorbing study of months on the part of men who had achieved the highest measure of success in their life work. To understand the plans requires patient study; because they aim not only to satisfy the eye trained to the perception of beauty, but they also make a direct appeal to the intellect by reason of their reasonableness and of the historic consciousness which they embody.

Questions of art and taste are not proper subjects for discussion by any deliberative body, and Congress is accustomed to refer such questions to committees or commissions and to accept or reject an individual project at the time when the question of making an appropriation for it comes up. Moreover, many portions of the plans do not need special congressional action, but may be carried out by the head of one of the other of the executive departments, by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, or the officer in charge of public buildings and grounds. It is the duty of an individual to take the pains to inform himself as to the plans and is in sympathy with the project. Happily thus the plans of the government have been found by men who are not both willing and anxious to carry out the plans of the park commission.

Development of Mall System.

The development of the mall system substantially along the line laid down by Peter Charles L'Enfant under the immediate direction and supervision of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson is by common consent the keystone in the arch. On this depends the future of the national capital. If the plans for this portion of the work are carried out, the city of Washington will become a consistent work of art, possessing unity, dignity and beauty. If the mall plans fail, then Wash-

as it has named it, a space resembling the Place de la Concorde in Paris; and this area it would be well to reserve for the Grant and his two great lieutenants, Sherman and Sheridan. The Grant statue or memorial has been provided for, and it is within the power of the statue commission to locate it in the space recommended by the park commission. There is reason to believe that this location will be the one selected, and thus another stake will be driven. The location of Sheridan on Grant's left and follow without question, since no action on that project has been taken. Nor should there be great difficulty in changing the location of the still uncompleted statue of Sherman to a site on Grant's right. The present location on the axis of the Treasury is the culmination of the long series of blunders and misadventures that have attended this statue from its inception. No comic opera contains a more absurd conceit than the position gravely maintained in connection with the Sherman statue, namely, that on the death of the artist a commission to execute a work of art becomes an asset of his estate, to be traded on by the heirs as their art knowledge or lack of it may dictate and the funds at their disposal may permit. Added to this is the fact that the Sherman statue, as William Trenchard Sherman in John Sherman's rightful place. It is quite unnecessary to discuss the practical details of the plans for the Sherman statue. It speaks for itself most loudly. It is to be hoped that the whole business will prove an awful and an effective warning.

Two Gateways to Washington.

Turning now to a pleasant theme: The proposed union station has been offered to the city of Washington. There is a gateway by water as well as by land. Where the Anacostia joins the Potomac is the long, narrow space, beautiful for situation, known as the Washington barracks; and there Congress has provided for the construction of the Army War College and the School of Application for the Corps of Engineers. The main college building, with its formal gardens, will look down the Potomac to the old town of Alexandria, rich in colonial memories, and on toward Mount Vernon, the extreme southeastern limit of the proposed park system. The officers' quarters, flanking the park grounds, will be placed along the river front a series of porticoes with their line of white columns standing in order like a regiment on dress parade. The work will be carried out according to plans eminently satisfactory to the commission.

hundredth anniversary of the removal of the seat of government to the District of Columbia. Among the objects proposed at that celebration was the restoration of the White House as the residence of the President of the United States, a project of the imperative nature of which was already recognized by Congress. By reason of a most fortunate chain of circumstances a President alive to the importance of having the work done in the most thorough and artistic manner came to be entrusted with the task. It is in no way invidious to say that if the selection of an architect for this delicate undertaking had been left to this body the choice would have been the man whom President Roosevelt did select—the president of the Institute of American Architects. How well he has carried out the work, with what thorough respect for the traditions of the house, with what comprehensive knowledge of the universal language of his profession, with what noble self-restraint he has subordinated decoration to architecture, and with what modesty he has made the old mansion speak its own speech and not that of an individual architect—all these things you may see for yourselves. The importance of the work on the White House by way of teaching the highest lessons of dignity, restraint and historic tradition to the people of the United States is a thing of what we fondly hope is a new era in Washington, cannot be overestimated. To link the age that is past with the age that is to be, there has been the constant endeavor of the park commission; and the restoration of the White House affords a supreme example of such continuity.

Progress of Plans.

Thus briefly and imperfectly, I have sketched for your encouragement the progress of plans as yet scarcely a year old. In this connection I cannot forbear to advert to the fact that the one man in Congress with whom the work of restoring the L'Enfant plan and carrying it to its ultimate conclusion through the plans of the park commission was a passion has passed from the scene of endeavor. Suddenly, unexpectedly, at the moment of highest usefulness and promise, and just as he was beginning to see the fulfillment of plans and purposes pursued through thirteen years of strenuous and intelligent effort, Senator McMillan's career on earth was terminated. It had been his expectation to press upon the attention of Congress at this session a combination of all the scattered authorities over District park and reservations, and create a single body capable of employing experts to perfect the details and to carry out thoroughly and vigorously the comprehensive scheme of the park development. That task now devolves upon others; and it should be the duty of the members of the American Institute of Architects to exact the same care and determined influence toward the creation of such a board of control. By so doing they will complete a task to which they have already lent their hands, and, as I believe, their hearts also.